

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. General

Before World War II, Gdynia was Poland's only port. It was one of the most modern ports in Europe; construction had been begun in 1923. In the last year of World War II, it was severely damaged, but reconstruction has proceeded at a fairly fast rate. I cannot estimate the area of the city.

Gdynia was the home of the Dalmor Deep Sea Fishing Enterprise (Przedsiębiorstwo Polowow Daleko Morskich) and the Arka Fishing and Supply Enterprise (Przedsiębiorstwo Polowow i Usług Rybackich) which fished coastal waters. Central Fisheries, which had a plant for the canning and the preserving of fish (refrigerators were used for the storage of fresh fish), was also located in Gdynia. Gdynia had facilities to overhaul and repair ships, and constructed fishing cutters. Gdynia was the main port for ocean-going passenger lines, and, at times, accommodated the Polish Navy. Only politically reliable Poles were allowed to reside along the coast.

Communications

2. Water communication was maintained between Gdynia and such ports as, Szczecin, Poland; Stockholm, Trelleborg, Gotteborg, Sweden; Helsinki, Kotka, Turku, Finland; Oslo, Stavanger, Norway; Copenhagen, Denmark; Murmansk, Odessa, USSR; Aberdeen, Glasgow, Scotland; Liverpool, Newcastle, England; Rostock, East Germany; Hamburg, West Germany; Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Holland; Le Havre, Marseilles, France; Antwerp, Belgium; Genoa, Naples, Italy; the countries of Albania, Bulgaria, and Rumania; Istanbul, Turkey; and the countries of Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, Abyssinia, China, Latin America, South Africa, and the Caribbean area.

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3. Rail communications was maintained between Gdynia and the following cities; Gdansk, Krakow, Bydgoszcz 5309N-1800E, Poznan 5225N-1658E, Przemysl, Lodz 5145N-1928E, Warsaw, Rzeszow, Bialystok 5330N-2300E, Lublin, Katowice, and Wroclaw.
4. Commercial and passenger airline communications were maintained between Gdynia and the following cities: ~~Bydgoszcz~~, Lodz, Szczecin, Warsaw, Katowice, and Wroclaw, by the Polish Air Lines (Polskie Linie Lotnicze - Lot: P.L.L.-Lot).

Diseases

- 25X1A 5. the population of Gdynia was approximately 25X1
- I have no knowledge of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, or the leading causes of death. I never heard of deaths from such diseases as typhoid, cholera, typhus, plague, yellow fever, etc. I did hear of a few deaths from dysentery and tuberculosis, but I cannot estimate how many. If there was a disease locally regarded as endemic, I would presume that it was tuberculosis. About 30% of the population was afflicted with tuberculosis; the principal causes of which were the lack of a balanced diet, crowded conditions, no hospitals for isolation, lack of soap to maintain cleanliness, and lack of medicaments.

Water Supply

6. The city had a state owned water supply system which derived its supply of water from a river, whose name I do not know. The water was distributed by means of underground water mains. I do not know if any treatment was given this water. It always seemed to have a natural taste. I have never tasted any chlorine. I believe the water supply system was adequate to serve the whole population. I do not know for what reason, but at times the water supply was cut off for several hours or for as long as half a day. I do not know the daily consumption of water. About 99% of the population used the public water supply. I do not know how the sanitary quality of the water was checked. The water was safe to use without further treatment such as boiling. Ships were also supplied from the public water supply, but I believe the water was first softened to reduce the alkaline content in order not to damage the ships' boilers. I believe the public water supply had a hardness of eight degrees. I have never heard of other sources of supply in use in the city.

Food Supply

7. The Municipal Slaughter House (Rzeznia Miejska) exercised control over the slaughtering of cattle. The cattle were examined for disease and given the official stamp of approval. I do not know who controlled markets, restaurants, or the handling of meats, or other foods, although I believe fish were controlled by the Department of Ichthyology.

Milk Supply

8. Cows' milk was distributed in sealed bottles or large cans. It was sold either bottled or in bulk. I do not know if any official agency controlled the sanitary quality of the milk. I do not know what percentage of the milk was bottled. The law stated that the milk had to be pasteurized; I have never heard of any violation of this law. I do not know the percentage of dairy cattle tested for tuberculosis by the Veterinary Department.

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Disposal Systems

9. The city had a sewage system which served the whole population. The ultimate disposal of the sewage was in the sea. Human excreta was not used for fertilizing land. I never heard of surface runoff as presenting a special problem; I never saw open ditches or storm sewers. After a heavy rain, the water usually drained after a period of two or three hours. There was a general collection of garbage and other refuse, which were placed in large metal cans, but I do not know how often. There was a Waste Salvage Department which separated bottles, cloth, iron, bones, and any other reusable items from the garbage. The garbage was ultimately burned and buried. There was a department for street cleaning, and dead animals were collected by the dog-catchers. Human cadavers were buried rather than cremated.

Pest Control

10. I heard that occasional samples of mosquitoes, flies, and lice were taken for analysis. About once each year poisons were placed in all homes, and some of the homes were fumigated to control rodents; I heard some people comment on the fact that the rodents in some cases were unaffected.

Medical and Hospital Facilities

11. I do not know how many hospitals were in the city. For an
 25X1 [redacted] I went to the [redacted] comprised of two 25X1
 adjoining buildings. Each was four stories high and covered an
 area of about 100 x 30 m. I cannot estimate the total number of
 hospital beds, or the number of charity beds. Medical, surgical,
 dental, nursing, and obstetrical services were available, but the
 big drawbacks were the lack of hospital space and medicaments. All
 drugs were at a premium; a great quantity of those used were sent
 from relatives abroad or brought in by seamen for resale. There
 were long waiting lists for admission to all hospitals and only
 25X1 emergency surgical cases were accepted immediately. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] and I had to
 wait nine days to gain admission to the hospital. People who were
 not seriously ill and who called for an ambulance were sentenced
 to jail.

12. All doctors were employed by the government, but contrary to law,
 secretly treated private patients. The doctors who did treat private
 patients do so only on the highest recommendation from a patient or
 friend previously so treated. There were doctors who specialized
 in eye, ear, nose, throat, heart diseases, venereal disease, tropical
 diseases, and others I cannot remember.

13. There were not sufficient materials for good dental treatment.
 There was no gypsum, gold, silver, nor platinum, and a person
 could apply for dentures only if he had at least seven teeth
 missing. This resulted in requests for extraction of one or two
 healthy teeth (if the person had only five or six teeth missing).
 An alloyed steel crown cost me 220 zlotys; this was a private visit.

Local Health and Welfare Administration

14. There were active divisions for the control of tuberculosis, venereal
 disease, and sanitation. Trucks mounted with X-ray machines
 examined workers for tuberculosis. People who were not employed,
 however, were on long waiting lists for this chest examination. How-
 ever, tuberculosis was not easily controlled, since as far as I
 know there were no isolation hospitals; it was next to impossible
 for an afflicted person to obtain a private room in dwellings
 even with a doctor's certificate. Living conditions were so
 crowded that the tubercular had to sleep in a room with three or
 four other people. About the only aid that the tuberculosis division
 was able to render was merely informing the person that he had the
 disease and that he needed care.

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15. Persons with venereal disease had to report to a clinic until they were cured. I do not know if there were active divisions for maternity, child health, or for the follow-up of infectious diseases. Cases of communicable diseases had to be reported, although the diseased were allowed to remain at home for treatment. I never heard of non-government health organizations that operated in the city. I believe children were immunized against small pox and typhus. Adults were also immunized against typhus. This took place, I believe, at least once each year.
16. I never heard of a system of public assistance, but I believe emergency charity cases were accepted by the hospitals. I heard that such persons would be given a bed, but that the medical treatment was limited if not nil.
17. In my opinion, health conditions and sanitation in Gdynia were fair. Available medical, dental, and hospital care was poor. The climate had no adverse effects on the population. In order to supply myself with the best food available, I spent about 80% of my above-average salary of 1,500 zlotys per month on food, [redacted] I spent no money for cigarettes or liquor. Many children suffered from anemia, weak bones and teeth. I never saw a chubby or healthy looking child. 25X1

Education

18. I am not familiar with the primary or high schools in Gdynia. English was taught in the high schools, lyceums, and universities. It was given preference over Latin but after Russian, German, and French. Russian and Polish were required languages. One could study English for four years in the high schools and two in the lyceums.

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